♪♪
BREEAAK YOUR NEEECK...
... FOR FOOOOD TOMORROW ... ♪♪
YOIGOSHI'S "YOU HAVE NO TOMORROW" REALLY IS A GREAT SONG...
WELL THEN, I BETTER WORK HARD TOMORROW TOO!
ERR...
HUH ??
EEK!
SHOCK!!
AWAWAWAHWAA
AAH, DON'T BE AFRAID ...
I'M THE LAND-LADY HERE...
DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH THE PERSON IN THAT ROOM?
AHH ....

I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I'M BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS AT THE COMPANY...
STEP!
STEP!
WORKING LATE ON MY PROJECT ...
...AND BEFORE THAT IT WAS NOTHING BUT MEETINGS ...
GRIN!
ALRIGHT! I'LL WORK HARD TOMORROW TOO!!
ERR, HUH?
IT... IT'S BEEN AWHILE...
YEAH, I SHOULD DROP BY SOMETIME...
Ah Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
I DON'T MEAN "SOMETIME" ...
I FINALLY GET TO SEE YOU, MISS MANAKA...
"REI" IS FINE.
R... MISS KOJIMA...
...YOU SHOULD COME HAVE A DRINK WITH ME EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE...

...LEND ME YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW. ♪
... OKAY ?!
AH!
EH? COULD YOU BE...
MINAKA FROM THE OUMUTAS?!
.....
SHE'S A COUSIN ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE...
BUT WHAT'S MINAKA DOING HERE?
NOD!
MISS MANAKA ...
Whisper
Whisper

A FEW MONTHS AGO...
WHEN I WAS WATCHIN' YA ON TV WITH MOM...
I HAVEN'T GIVEN HER ANY KIND OF EXPLANATION BUT...
SOMEHOW IT SEEMS SHE "REMEMBERS" YOU, "MR." MANAKA...
EH?
SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN THE "MALE" ME?
"...MOM, IZZAT SOMEONE YA KNOW?"
"THAT MAKO-CHAN SURE HAS BECOME A BEAUT'"
"EVEN THO' WHEN SHE WAS A KID SHE WAS A TOTAL TOMBOY..."
"EH?"
"...EH? YA DON' REMEMBER YER COUSIN MATOKO-CHAN?"
"YA'LL USED TA PLAY TOGETHER ALL THE TIME!"

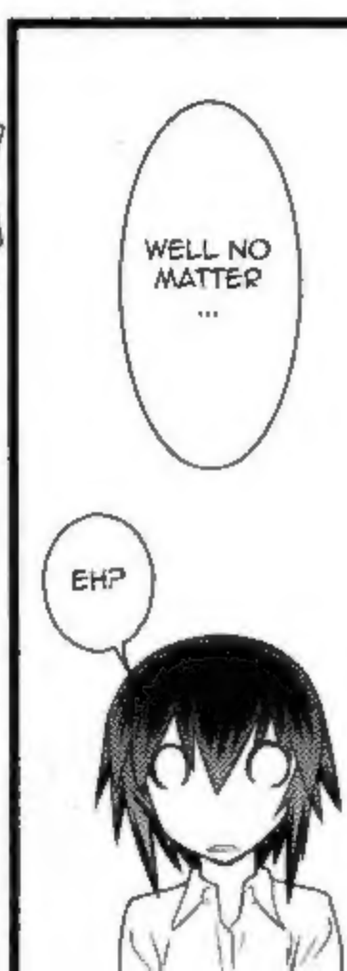
"WHEN I TALKED TA MOM..."
"SHE DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE..."
Mom jer actin weird
"Ya used ta hang out with her all the time How could ye forget?"
"HOW YA FIGURE A BEAUTY LIKE HER IS GONNA BE A MAN?"
"WHAT'RE YA TALKIN' 'BOUT?"
"FROM THE MANAKAS DOWN YONDER?"
"EHH? BUT MAKOTO-CHAN'S A BOY AIN'T HE?"
BUT I WANTED TA SEE WITH MY OWN EYES...
SORRY FER COMIN' SO SUDDENLY ...
SO SHE REMEMBERS ME HUH?
MISS MANAKA ...
Just a sec there...
TING! TING!
AH... LISTEN MINAKA-CHAN...
IT'LL TAKE A WHILE, BUT I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ...
SO I WENT TA AUNTIE'S PLACE AND ASKED HER...
I'M ON A BREAK FROM COLLEGE ...
She looks just like she did in middle school though...
YOU'RE ALREADY IN COLLEGE HUH?

Whisper
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING...
OW OW OW OW !!
YAWK!
Whisper
I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP IT A SECRET FROM HER...
Whisper
WHY...?! SOMEONE FINALLY REMEMBERS ME!!
Whisper
WHEN SOMEONE REMEMBERS YOU AS A MAN...
...THERE'S A STRONG POSSIBILITY THEY WERE ATTRACTED TO YOU AS THE OPPOSITE SEX...
?
ERK...
GIVEN THAT POSSIBILITY ...
...DO YOU WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS GIRL TOO?
...SO THEN I DID REMEMBER WRONG...
I SEE...

I... GUESS...
YOU PROBABLY MISTOOK ME FOR ONE OF THE KIDS WE USED TO PLAY WITH OR SOMETHING...
Y... YEAH ...

.....
IT'S KIND OF EMBARASSING ...
BUT... TO THINK MINAKA MIGHT'VE HAD THOSE KINDS OF FEELINGS FOR ME...

GLOMP!
I WAS GONNA ASK MOM TA LET ME STAY WITH YA AWHILE ...
...AND IF WE'RE BOTH GIRLS THERE AIN'T A PROBLEM THEN.
UWAH ?!


WELL NO MATTER ...
EH?

EeHkHk ?!
SHE SWITCHED TO CALLING ME "ONEE-CHAN" LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!
WAS SHE NOT ATTRACTED TO ME AS A MAN AFTER ALL?!
MAKO-NEECHAN!
YER OFF TOMORROW AIN'T YA?
I WANNA GO SIGHTSEEIN' 'ROUND TOKYO! ♪
Yaay! So safe and cuddly!
WAIT A SEC...
MINAKA ... CHAN...
YOU ADAPT TO THINGS WAY TOO FAST...
I'd say your ability to adapt is far more amazing...
I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO TALK...
ALSO, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WENT BACK TO YOUR ROOM?
Bzzt Bzzt Bzzt Bzzt

sigh...
I'M BEAT...
"I WANT YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME."
"I'M SERIOUS."
RING! RING!
...NO ANSWER.
RING! RING! RING!
"IT'S JUST... I WANTED YOU TO KNOW ABOUT MY FEELINGS..."
"I DIDN'T WANT TO LET THINGS JUST END WITH YOU HATING ME..."
"I KNOW..."
"I WON'T ASK YOU TO BREAK UP WITH HER..."
"BUT... YOU KNOW DON'T YOU?"
"ABOUT ME... AND..."

"FIRST, I JUST WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND AS A MAN."
"I'LL TELL YOU THIS THOUGH. I'M NOT JUST SCREWING AROUND..."
"I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU."
SIGH!
I THOUGHT LINES LIKE THOSE ONLY EVER HAPPENED IN SOAP OPERAS...
RING! RING! RING! RING!
Who would've thought I'd hear something like that in real life...
BEEP!
This is an automated mailbox service.
After the tone, please leave a message less than 30 seconds.
I'M TOTALLY BEAT...
I'M TELLING YOU!!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
MY BATH IS TINY!!

TL NOTE: HAKATA-BEN IS A DIALECT OF JAPANESE SPOKEN IN FUKUOKA. IT'S WHAT MINAKA HAS BEEN SPEAKING, AND WHAT MAKOTO SPOKE WHEN (S)HE WAS A KID....
I GOT TA HEAR HAKATA-BEN* FROM MAKO-CHAN! ♪
I'm on a campaign to get rid of yer Tokyo accents ♪
SIGH
That is nuts
THAT AIN'T TH' SAME!
YER TALKIN' 'BOUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS!
IT'S FINE AIN'T IT? WE'RE BOTH GIRLS AIN'T WE?
WE DID THIS WHEN WE WERE LITTLE!! ♪
W... WHA?!
MINAKA ?!
BUT ..
YOU GOT SOME BIGGUNS AIN'TCHA ?
GROPE!

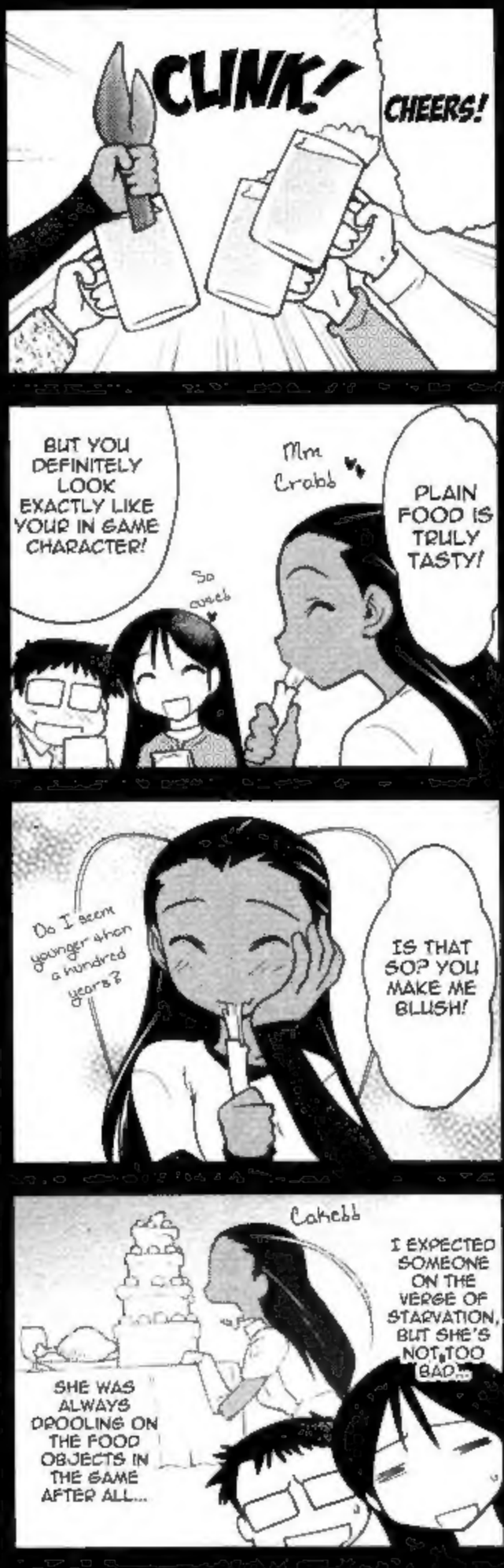
WHY YA BEIN' SO BASHFUL?
DIDN'T YA GET NAKED ALL THE TIME ON TV?
N... NOT QUITE, BUT...
I'M JUST WASHIN' YER BACK 'SALL.
SEE?
.....
UGH.
SCRUB!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STUCK DOING THIS KIND OF SHYNESS PLAY WITH MY COUSIN... WHAT A DISASTER!
SCRUB!
SCRUB!

GASP!
AAH!....
...SHE REALLY IS A WOMAN, HUH?
JUST WHO TH' HECK DID I CONFUSE HER WITH?
THIS SCAR...
"MAKO CHAN!"
"MAKO CHAN!"
"MAKO-CHAN! YER BACK'S BLEEDIN'!!"
"MINAKA! ARE YA OKAY?"
"YA AIN'T HURT OR NOTHIN'?"

"DON'CHA CRY NONE..."
"AH..."
"MAKO-CHAN, DON'T IT HURT?"
"SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS'LL HEAL UP WITH JUST SOME SPIT AN' A BANDAID!"
"NAW, 'CUZ I'MA MAN...!"

MINAKA ...CHAN?
.....

NEVER-MIND...
IT'S NOTHIN'...
...JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT.
MAKO CHAN... JUST WHAT'S GOIN' ON...?
HOW ABOUT WE GET OUT OF THE BATH AND GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
Since it's this late maybe we should go to a nice sit down restaurant?


CLINK!
CHEERS!
BUT YOU DEFINITELY LOOK EXACTLY LIKE YOUR IN GAME CHARACTER!
Mm Crabb
PLAIN FOOD IS TRULY TASTY!
So cute
Do I seem younger than a hundred years?
IS THAT SO? YOU MAKE ME BLUSH!
Cakebb
I EXPECTED SOMEONE ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION, BUT SHE'S NOT TOO BAD...
SHE WAS ALWAYS DROOLING ON THE FOOD OBJECTS IN THE GAME AFTER ALL...

にょたいかっ。

NYOTAIKA CHAPTER 41

DAT HAKATA-BEN....

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MASKED LLAMA PRODUCTIONS

TRANSLATION AND EDITING:

STIX